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## Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Mighty God, who observes all who live on Earth, we give our lives to You this day and trust You with our future. Our times are in Your hands, for without Your power we would not see tomorrow.

As our Senators travel on this journey called life, show them the right path, O Lord. Point out to them the road to follow. Continue to lead them by Your truth, as they place their hope in You.

Lord, thank You for Your compassion and unfailing love.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Florence Y. Pan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I want to begin today talking about the debt limit by returning to three very frightening statistics.

The first is \$15 trillion. That is the amount of household wealth that a leading economist recently warned could be wiped out of the economy should the government default on its debt.

The second is 6 million. That is the number of jobs that the same analysis said could be lost should a default become a reality.

The third statistic is 9 percent. That is the unemployment rate our country potentially faces if we don't do our jobs to raise the debt ceiling.

Now, none of these statistics, none of these numbers need become a reality if both parties unite in the coming days to pass the continuing resolution sent to us by the House. It would keep the government open for 3 months. It would provide funding for disaster relief and Afghan refugees. And, of course, it would suspend the debt ceiling until the end of 2022 so we can pay for the debt incurred at the end of the previous administration.

Every single Member of this Chamber is going to go on record as to whether they support keeping the government open and averting a default or support shutting us down and careening our country toward a first-ever default.

Democrats will be united in supporting the passage of the CR. It is the right thing to do for the American people, and it would immediately stop

these unnecessary crises that are knocking at our doorstep.

At the end of the day, the only thing that matters in a legislative body is how you vote. That is the most important thing we do. There are many other important things, but that is the one that matters the most. It is what our constituents sent us here to do.

Now, Senate Democrats have said repeatedly that they are all for avoiding a government shutdown. They have said repeatedly that the debt ceiling must be raised.

So I want to offer a novel suggestion: If Republicans want to avoid default, then they should vote yes. If the Republicans want to keep the government open, they should vote yes.

But, incredibly, Leader MCCONNELL, spinning a tail—a web of subterfuge, deception, and outright contradictions—has said that he is going to vote no, and he urges Republicans to vote no.

This is “Alice in Wonderland” logic. Republicans claim to oppose a default, but they are saying they are going to vote for one anyway. They say they oppose a government shutdown, but they are going to vote for one anyway. They say they want disaster relief, but they say they are going to oppose it when the time comes.

So they can resort to all the sophistry they want, but if they vote no, the Republican Party will be solidifying itself as the party of default, and the American people, unfortunately, will be the ones footing the bill—a high cost to pay for Republican games, political games.

By voting to default, the Republicans would be telling the American people they are fine if people don't get their Social Security checks. They are saying they don't care if our veterans are denied benefits. They are saying they don't care if the markets come crashing down, hurting people's pensions and IRAs.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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